



Seattle Food Committee
Meals Partnership Coalition



Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
City of Seattle

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor honors local heroes in the fight against hunger

SEATTLE — Mayor Greg Nickels acknowledged outstanding community organizers who are dedicated to making hunger a problem of the past during today's annual Mayor's End Hunger Awards ceremony held at the Palace Kitchen downtown.

The Mayor commended the many groups and individuals working to end hunger in Seattle — food distributors, soup kitchens, food banks, businesses, farmers' markets and restaurants. Washington's population is the fifth hungriest in the nation according to a recent USDA national survey, and "hunger is familiar to those who previously knew no such thing," the Mayor said as he urged others to volunteer.

This year's award winners are:

Operation Nightwatch, an organization that reaches out to homeless people and helps them to find shelter, food and other supportive services. Operation Nightwatch last week conducted its annual One Night Count of the homeless sleeping outdoors. They counted 2,216 homeless in Seattle and in parts of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond.

National Charity League, a group of mothers and high-school aged daughters who provide and host dinners at Hammond House Women's Overnight Shelter downtown.

Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance, which has farmers' markets in the University District, West Seattle, Lake City, Magnolia and Columbia City neighborhoods. In 2003, they facilitated the donation of nearly 40,000 pounds of organic produce to area food banks.

Fran Yeatts, food bank director at the West Seattle Food Bank, who was nominated for "the ability to juggle and perform magic like pulling a rabbit out of a hat. These are the skills needed for an average performance, or an average food bank day."

Robert Tranberg, Sr., a volunteer with the Ballard Food Bank who works five days a week picking up food and cardboard boxes for use on the food bank's food line. He also cooks a 40-quart pot of chili once a week.

This was the 13th year of the Mayor's End Hunger Awards, a national effort by the nation's mayors to recognize outstanding local organizations fighting hunger. Sponsors include the Seattle Food Committee and the Meals Partnership Coalition. The Seattle Food Committee represents 27 food banks working together since 1984 to coordinate food-assistance services. The Meals Partnership Coalition is a network of people, programs and partners that feed the hungry in Seattle and King County. There are nearly 100 meal programs in Seattle.

Photos of the award recipients with the Mayor are available.

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